



## **FORT GEORGE G. MEADE NEWS RELEASE**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
4550 PARADE FIELD LANE  
FORT MEADE, MD 20755-5025  
[www.ftmeade.army.mil](http://www.ftmeade.army.mil)

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### **Fort Meade's plans to discontinue biomass conversion center project**

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MD., -- After reviewing several options for sludge removal at Fort Meade, installation officials plan to pursue a variety of upgrades to the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) that is currently used by the post.

"The installation is constantly seeking new and innovative ways to reduce costs and be environmentally compliant," said Clyde Reynolds, director of public works. "While the biomass conversion center project is no longer economically feasible, upgrades to the current WWTP could result in a reduction of the volume of sludge or overall treatment costs."

The Army currently owns and operates a 4.5 million gallon per day capacity WWTP on installation property. The WWTP collects and treats all domestic wastewater generated from Fort Meade. Sludge is separated from the wastewater stream during the treatment process and collected in holding tanks until it is hauled off site and used for land application throughout the region. The hauling and disposal of sludge is both expensive and labor intensive.

By upgrading the technology of the treatment plant, Fort Meade officials believe that the amount of sludge that will be produced can be significantly reduced. In modernizing its plant, the post also would be able to better accommodate the demand that will be placed on it with the growth resulting from the Base Realignment and Closure decision of 2005.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE: Media with additional questions can contact Summer Barkley, Media Relations Director, at (301) 677-1436 or Jennifer Downing, Media Relations Officer, at (301) 677-1486.**